



Dear all,

Children are the greatest gift to this world. Today, we celebrate them and their dreams.

## POWER POSE!

We asked the children at our after-school programmes about their dreams and here are some of their awe-inspiring responses!



"My mom inspires me to become a cook one day!" - Shabnum, 12, Mumbai



"I want to become an Engineer, wear a cap and travel in a car. One day, I want to buy my mother and father a big house" - Hari Sree, 8, Punganur



"I want to become a Police Officer and serve my country. I want to make this country safe and secure for everyone." - Tilli Khan, 8, Nalasopara



"I want to become an Actor like Shivakarthikeyan (a Kollywood actor). He came from a simple family and made it big in life. I want to become like him and take care of my family. I also want to help those in need." - Danesh, 9, Chennai



"My dream is to become a Doctor. I want to serve the sick and needy. My parents will help me become a doctor and I will work hard to achieve my dream." ~ Bhavana, 9, Bangalore





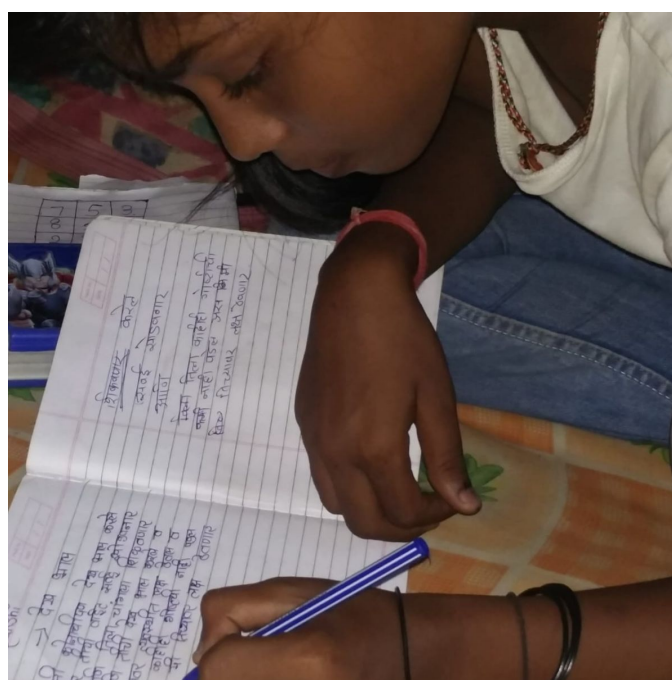
During this pandemic, we have kept our children in the after-school programmes, night shelter and group homes active through activities given by Toy Bank, a non-profit in India that impacts kids through Play2Learn and Play2Smile programmes. These activities help kids in improving their mental and behavioural well-being and resilience building.

Toy Bank's learning through play is used to teach kids numerals, communication, listening skills, observation skills, fine motor skills, critical thinking, problem-solving, mental stimulation and life skills like empathy. These activities help children to stay active and learn new things everyday.

Shabdha\* lives with her sister and parents in Kamathipura, a red-light area in Mumbai. During outreach in 2019, our staff found that she was living in an at-risk area and needed shelter. Since then Shabdha has stayed at the night-shelter and has been proactive in the after-school programme. Due to the lockdown, children had to go back and live with their parents and this has stunted their holistic development. In the past few months, Shabdha has enjoyed the activities given from Toy Bank. She even gathered a group of friends who do not have phones to access the activities and requested our staff to arrange a space for them to do activities together. For children like Shabdha, activities from Toy Bank has been something to look forward to every week!

\*name changed

## COVID-19, Children & Education



COVID-19 has affected over 12 million people around the world, causing an economic devastation since the great depression in the 1920s. It is no doubt that the children from low income families have been greatly affected. Most of them are from families of migrants and daily wage workers who make up 85% of India's economy. 320 million citizens are below the age of 18 years in India, yet, two decades of studies have shown that less than 25% of the country's students graduate from 10th grade and less than 10%

make it to college. With this already existing crisis in the education sector, COVID-19 has posed a threat to children from the lower strata of the society.

As most schools have moved to online classes, several children from these groups do not even own mobile phones that have internet, let alone a laptop. This may push many children to drop out of school leading to an increase in child labour. Those that do attend classes, need special attention but their parents are not able to help them as they themselves are illiterate. This pandemic has also affected children who are already receiving help from NGOs like ours. We have worked for years to create a well-structured life for children in the red-light areas of Mumbai through our night shelter, after-school programmes, group homes and change agent groups. As they have now gone back to stay with their parents in the brothel during the lockdown, many of them have fallen back to their old ways of living. Many children are also experiencing trauma as they witness their parents suffer financially.

As we celebrate Children's Day on November 14th and observe Child Safety Week, it is important that we care for the children at home and in the communities around us.

***What can you do to improve their lives during this unprecedented time?***

**Pamper your child:** Show your child that you are grateful for them and that you love spending time with them!

**Give:** Ensure other children are educated by giving to NGOs that work towards their well-being.

**Mental Health:** These times can be stressful for children as they try to cope with online learning at home. Check in with your child from time to time on how they are doing mentally and help them navigate through their emotions.

**Smart Phone:** Many children do not have smart phones to attend online classes. If you have an old phone at home, you could consider donating that to a child in need.

Small changes can make a big difference! #HopeOverFear

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## Notable Events From The Past Month



We have extended our work in Chennai to Kalayanapuram. Our new hub was inaugurated by esteemed chief guests and community members. We have currently started our after-school programme and hope to incorporate more programmes according to the need of the community and its members.



We celebrated International Girl Child Day with the children in our after-school programmes last month. In Bangalore, the children learnt about the importance of rights and the challenges girl children face in the society. Our team in Mumbai collaborated with Ms. Neelu Grover from United Way of Mumbai to teach children about 'Body Autonomy and Safe Behaviour for Teens'.





Our team in Chennai conducted focus group discussions and personal interviews with the women in the community of Kalyanapuram to understand their needs. Through this, we found that they were interested to learn new skills which can help them to become financially independent.

In collaboration with Eben David Charities, our team began a 5-day micro skill training for 14 women hand picked through interviews. This 5-day training helped women learn how to make detergents, phenoyl, soap oil and candles. As women learn effective ways of making products used daily, they can not only start small businesses but can also reduce the cost of buying these products from stores.

This micro skill training has also been conducted with women in Kannagi Nagar, Chennai. This is just another stepping stone for many more projects that will empower our community women in Chennai.



## RIDE TO FREEDOM

AN OASIS INDIA INITIATIVE

NOVEMBER 28TH 2020  
TO  
DECEMBER 2ND 2020

**HELP US  
MAKE TRAFFICKING HISTORY**

GIVE TODAY

[www.oasisindia.org](http://www.oasisindia.org)
[www.mukthibikechallenge.org](http://www.mukthibikechallenge.org)

A group of our staff and riders will be riding within their cities for Mukthi Challenge 2020 at the end of this month. By doing this, we hope to raise awareness on human trafficking among our friends and families. The money that we raise through this challenge will go into our anti-human trafficking work across India. You can support this cause by giving in the link below.

[Give Today](#)